

Pay-As-You-Go Legislation Passes the House

Childers Votes to Restore Fiscal Discipline to the Federal Government, Urges Senate to Act Swiftly

July 22, 2009

Washington, DC - Today, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) joined a majority of his colleagues in the House in giving pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules the force of law for the first time in more than ten years. Enacting statutory PAYGO has been a long-time goal of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, of which Congressman Childers is a member, and House passage of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2009 (H.R. 2920) represents an enormous step forward in restoring fiscal discipline and accountability to the federal government.

"Hard-working North Mississippians use a balanced budget on a daily basis in order to make ends meet, and the federal government should operate no differently," said Congressman Childers. "Today's legislation marks an extremely significant step towards restoring fiscal discipline to the federal government. I urge the Senate to bring this critical legislation to the floor as quickly as possible so that we can begin to reduce our deficit, improve national security by decreasing our indebtedness to foreign countries, and prevent outstanding bills from being passed on to future generations."

Specifically, H.R. 2920 would require that all new policies reducing revenues or expanding entitlement spending enacted during a session of Congress be offset over five and ten years. In doing so, the legislation would force a serious examination of wasteful subsidies in the budget and tax loopholes that can be eliminated to offset more worthwhile programs. Additionally, there are consequences for failing to offset legislation, which will ensure that this new law is adhered to: If the net effect of all legislation enacted during a session of Congress increased the deficit, there would be an across-the-board reduction in certain mandatory programs, known as a sequester.

A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit <http://www.childers.house.gov/>

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